

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-2 and 5-10 are amended and claims 3-4 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 5-18 are pending in this application.

The Office Action objects to claim 6 for informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the informality noted by the Office Action does not exist in the application as originally filed. It is believed that the error may have occurred at the Patent Office due to electronic file wrapper processing. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no correction on Applicant's part is required and withdrawal of the objection to claim 6 requested.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,697 to Kitajima. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites an edge-detecting device for detecting an edge of a medium comprising "an adjusting unit that performs an adjusting operation by controlling the detecting unit to detect values of the medium detection data at a plurality of locations on the medium, thereby adjusting a determining condition based on the plurality of detected values." Applicants respectfully submit that Kitajima does not disclose this feature.

Applicant respectfully submits that Kitajima does not disclose, teach or suggest a device that performs an adjusting operation by controlling the detecting unit to detect values of the medium detection data "at a plurality of locations on the medium," as recited in claim 1.

On the contrary, Kitajima discloses at col. 3, line 25-39, a media detection method and device in which "the determination of the formula to compute the reference input terminal voltage value does not require any output of the optical sensor in the presence of a medium."

Thus, in direct contradiction to claim 1, the adjusting operation disclosed by Kitajima is based on a predetermined formula which does not require any output of the optical sensor in the presence of a medium. Therefore, the adjusting operation in Kitajima fails to disclose

"controlling the detecting unit to detect values of the medium detection data at a plurality of locations on the medium" and adjusting "based on the plurality of detected values", as recited in claim 1.

Independent claim 1 further recites that the adjusting unit includes "a light-emitting adjusting unit" that adjusts the amount of light emitted by the light-emitting element.

Applicants respectfully submit that Kitajima also fails to disclose this feature.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentably over Kitajima and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Claims 2-3 depend from independent claim 1 and are likewise patentably over Kitajima for at least their dependency, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over EP 0526154 to Ishikawa. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites an edge-detecting device for detecting an edge of a medium wherein the adjusting unit "adjusts the amount of light emitted by the light-emitting element at the plurality of locations to such a value that causes the light-receiving element to receive light with an amount of a predetermined value." Ishikawa does not disclose, teach or suggest this feature.

Ishikawa, discloses at col. 7, line 18-22, that it may be possible to perform a plurality of detections at given intervals by scanning in the width direction of a recording medium by the use of a sensor, and detecting and storing the output value of the sensor as the carriage travels in a forward direction. However, nowhere does Ishikawa disclose, teach or suggest adjusting "the amount of light emitted by the light-emitting element" at the plurality of locations.

Claim 1 further recites a "light-emitting adjusting unit that adjusts the amount of light emitted by the light-emitting element at the plurality of locations to such a value that causes the light receiving element to receive light with an amount of a predetermined value."

Applicant respectfully submits that Ishikawa also fails to disclose, teach or suggest this feature.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ishikawa only discloses, at column 7, lines 34-36, performing detections at a plurality of locations, but fails to disclose, teach or suggest a light-emitting adjusting unit adjusts the amount of light, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentably over Ishikawa. Claims 2-7 are likewise patentably over Ishikawa for at least their dependence on claim 1, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a or e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,390,703 to Kinas et al. ("Kinas").

Independent claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, an image-forming device for forming images on a recording medium, the device comprising an adjusting unit that performs an "adjusting operation" by controlling the detecting unit to detect values of the medium detection data at a plurality of locations on the medium, thereby "adjusting a determining condition based on the plurality of detected values."

Kinas discloses, at col. 8, line 17-31, a media handling system having a sensor which travels transversely across the media path and detects the edge of the media by a "very sharp increase" in luminance when the sensor passes over the edge of the media, thus identifying an edge of the media. Thus, the edge detection operation disclosed by Kinas, summarized at column 3, line 1, is based upon "detecting a threshold change in luminance." However,

nowhere does Kinas disclose an adjusting operation which adjusts "a determining condition based upon the plurality of detected values," as recited in claim 10.

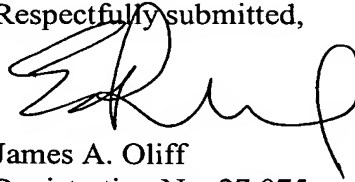
Claim 1 further recites a "light-emitting adjusting unit that adjusts the amount of light emitted by the light-emitting element at the plurality of locations to such a value that causes the light receiving element to receive light with an amount of a predetermined value," as recited in claim 10. Applicant respectfully submits that Kinas also fails to disclose, teach or suggest this feature.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 is patentably distinguishable over Kinas. Claims 11-18 depend from independent claim 10 and are likewise patentably over Kinas for at least their dependency, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 5-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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